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Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

1/28/88

William M. Baker
Director, Public Affairs
(703) 482-7676

Judge:

Re your speech before
Central Intelligence Retirees
Association on Feb 8 —
attached is letter to CIRA
from Mr. Helms who wanted
to introduce you — but can't.
You'll find Helms' letter
of interest.

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7 FEB 1988

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26 January 1988

Mr. Bill Baker
Public Affairs Office

Dear Bill,

We asked Ambassador Dick Helms to introduce Judge Webster at the 8 February 1988 CIRA luncheon, but unfortunately, he will be out-of-town on that date.

Ambassador Helms sent me a letter (copy attached) not only expressing his regrets, and his admiration for Judge Webster, but also commenting on several problems facing Judge Webster.

We will likely work some of these comments into the introduction of Judge Webster at the luncheon and we also plan to publish the letter in the next CIRA "Newsletter" sent to our nationwide membership.

We thought that you and Judge Webster might like to read Ambassador Helm's letter

Sincerely,



Enclosure: Ambassador Helms' Letter

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INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING

RICHARD HELMS
PRESIDENT

TELEX: 440242 SAFR UI
CABLE: SAFEER WASHDC

January 22, 1987

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Dear Dick:

I am indeed sad that I will be out of Washington on February 8th and will therefore be unable to introduce Judge Webster at the CIRA luncheon. I would like to have had the opportunity to tell the "faithful" how highly I think of the new Director and how fortunate the Agency is to have him as its leader during this difficult period.

Judge Webster hails from Missouri, and you know about Missouri mules! His Naval training program sent him for further hardening to the cold Massachusetts countryside at both Williams and Amherst, rival colleges but peers in quality. He graduated from Amherst in 1947 and promptly got his law degree from Washington University. Through the practice of law and the judicial system Bill rose to the U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit. The only higher step is the Supreme Court, and he is not dead yet! His reputation in legal circles and around the American Bar Association is impeccable. He was called to Washington in 1978 where he rejuvenated and restored the reputation and credibility of the FBI. Nine years into his ten year term the President called him to the Agency. A thoroughly decent man with a host of friends and acquaintances, Bill Webster takes out his aggression -- not in the office -- but on the tennis court where he whacks a mean ball.

A few moments ago I referred to a "difficult period." I do so for good reason. The Agency is inevitably caught up in the tussle between the Executive and Legislative. This manifests itself, for example, in Congressional intrusions into foreign policy, foreign aid, even the budget of the Department of State. For a fact, the whole governmental budgeting process is chaotic. Rarely in our history has it been worse, as can be seen in the thousand-page omnibus bill passed just before Christmas. The Agency has its own if different problems with Congress. As an outsider I cannot help noting the wealth of material, both written and oral, which the Intelligence Committees demand and

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procure from the Agency. The number of individuals privy to this material increases every year with new staffers learning what retiring staffers have known. Senators and Congressmen come and go. Does one expect secrets to be kept under such circumstances? It was difficult enough in the days with which I am familiar when no classified papers went from the Agency to either branch of Congress and the only classified briefings to Congressional committees were given by the Director himself or with him in attendance. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee had one cleared staffer, the House Appropriations Subcommittee one or two.

On top of the Congressional problem, clearly exacerbated by the controversy over certain covert actions, come the leaks to journalists and authors from Intelligence Community officials who have sworn not to reveal such secrets. One need only read Bob Woodward's book "Veil" to note the extent to which classified information has been put into his hands. Who are these people who break their oath? None have been identified, none have been punished. I have no doubt that efforts have been made to identify them, but there are so many possibilities that the needle in the haystack comes to mind. The press protects its sources, the public is titillated by secrets, and there is no outcry. That is cold comfort to an officer on a windy corner in Moscow on a bitterly cold night. As for friends and collaborators abroad, they must by now have been convinced that our Intelligence Community can keep no secrets. And what a difference that will make over time, particularly in the terrorism area. Those beautiful satellite photographs do not do much good against a bomb thrower.

But enough. Judge Webster needs all the support we in CIRA can give him. That is the point I want to make. He has a rough row to hoe. Perhaps in some small way we can make it a mite easier.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



Richard Helms

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